

HEREFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL



ANNUAL REPORT  
OF THE  
COUNTY MEDICAL OFFICER  
OF HEALTH  
FOR THE YEAR  
1950

park. 24/11/51

# Annual Report of the County Medical Officer of Health for the Year 1950

**To the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee of the Herefordshire County Council.**

I have the honour to present the annual report on the health of Herefordshire for the year ended 31st December, 1950, together with vital statistics relating to that period.

The vital statistics show a total death rate of 12.2 per 1,000. The birth rate was 16.7, with once again an exceptionally low infant mortality rate of 31.5. There was no case of Diphtheria during the year. The mortality rate from Tuberculosis was rather lower than the average for England and Wales. The principal causes of death were heart disease, cancer, vascular lesions of nervous system, bronchitis and pneumonia. The deaths from these causes occurred chiefly of persons aged 65 or over. Notifications of Poliomyelitis were high, although they did not reach epidemic proportions. The repeated increased prevalence of the disease each late summer and autumn must be looked upon as a potential danger to the public health of the County.

Although a number of important legislative and administrative changes were made with regard to the production and distribution of milk towards the end of the previous year, these were not fully implemented until 1950. The effect of these changes was that the functions and responsibilities relating to the production of milk, designated and undesignated, became vested in the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, but, in their place, the County Council assumed responsibility for the inspection and licensing of heat treatment plants and premises, with the exception of those in Hereford City, and continued to be responsible for the supervision of the Milk in Schools Scheme. This work has satisfactorily been carried out through the year with the co-operation of the District Sanitary Inspectors.

Negotiations with the Hereford Diocesan Association for Moral Welfare went ahead with the proposal to establish a Mother and Baby Home/Hostel at St. Martin's Home, Hereford. The need is for a dual purpose Home/Hostel. Accommodation is required for pregnant women, married or unmarried, to be cared for during the three months before confinement, and then for convalescence or rehabilitation. Some of them need help in re-establishing themselves, in making plans for their babies, and to avail themselves of the opportunity to return to a normal life.

Consideration was given to the establishment of an Occupation Centre for mental defectives in Hereford. It is usually considered that the aims and objects of an Occupation Centre are as follows :—

- (a) The developing of the defectives' minds and bodies within the limitations imposed by their defect, so that both at the Centre and in their homes they may lead happy and interesting lives.
- (b) The aiding of the defectives to form good habits, to acquire self-control and to develop a social sense as they learn to work and play with others.
- (c) The relieving of the strain caused by the presence of an untrained defective in a family, and the helping of the parents of defective children by demonstrating methods of training and care.

An interesting development in the field of mental health has been the increasing number of cases which can now be dealt with at the Psychiatric Clinic, or are admitted to hospital as voluntary patients. This has led to potentially sick persons being less reluctant to seek treatment, and therefore being dealt with at any early stage with a good prospect of cure.

Tuberculosis remains one of the principal health problems. Tuberculosis is an infectious disease and in the enthusiasm to treat individual cases by modern clinical methods, it is hoped that persons suffering from chronic pulmonary tuberculosis who do not readily respond to such treatment, will have some provision made for them on public health grounds to avoid infecting others.

I acknowledge with thanks the confidence given to me by the members of the County Health Committee and the Public Health and Housing Committee, and the staff for their outstanding loyalty and industry.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

J. S. COOKSON,  
*County Medical Officer.*

## COUNTY STAFF

### *County Medical Officer of Health—*

J. S. COOKSON, M.A., M.D., D.P.H., Barrister-at-Law.

### *Deputy County Medical Officer—*

S. HEWITT, M.B., B.S., B.H.Y., D.P.H. (Resigned 30/9/50).

### *Clinical Tuberculosis Officer—*

T. V. R. PHILIP, M.B., D.P.H. (By arrangement with Birmingham Regional Hospital Board)

### *Assistant County Medical Officers of Health and Assistant School Medical Officers—*

\*W. HOGG, M.B., B.S., D.P.H.

\*M. J. PLEYDELL, M.C., M.D., D.P.H. (Resigned 31/10/50).

†\*O. M. HOLDEN, G.M., M.D., CH.B., D.P.H. (Appointed 13/11/50).

\*R. T. THOMSON, M.B., CH.B., D.P.H.

PEGGY BEYNON, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H. (Resigned 31/8/50).

JEAN W. ROBERTS, M.B., CH.B. (Appointed 1/11/50).

\*Also District Medical Officers of Health.

†Temporary, Part-time.

### *Supervisor of Midwives and Superintendent of Nurses—*

Miss F. E. SIMKINS, S.R.N., S.C.M. (Resigned 30/9/50).

Miss M. A. BACH, S.R.N., S.C.M. (Appointed 27/11/50).

### *Deputy Supervisor of Midwives and Superintendent of Nurses—*

Miss E. J. KERFOOT, S.R.N., S.C.M.

### *Assistant Supervisors of Midwives and Superintendents of Nurses—*

Miss F. B. JONES, S.R.N., S.C.M.

Miss D. E. PADDON, S.R.N., S.C.M.

Miss M. A. REYNOLDS, S.R.N., S.C.M.

### HEALTH VISITORS AND MIDWIVES.

The Staff of 50 nurses carry out midwifery and Health Visitors duties in addition to District Nursing.

### *Clerical Staff—*

*Chief Clerk—*L. A. Nicholls, C.R.S.I.

### DISTRICT MEDICAL OFFICERS OF HEALTH.

Bromyard U.D.C.

„ R.D.C.

Kington U.D.C.

„ R.D.C.

Leominster Borough

Leominster & Wigmore R.D.C.

Weobley R.D.C.

Dr. O. M. Holden (Temporary)

Dr. M. J. Pleydell (Resigned 31/10/50)

Dore & Bredwardine R.D.C.

Ledbury U.D.C.

Ledbury R.D.C.

Ross-on-Wye U.D.C.

Ross & Whitchurch R.D.C.

Dr. William Hogg.

Hereford City

... ..

Dr. R. T. Thomson.

Hereford R.D.C.

... ..

Dr. R. Wood Power.



## GENERAL STATISTICS.

AREA 528,934 ACRES

DISTRICT	1947			1948			1949			1950		
	Live Births	Deaths	Pop.	Live Births	Deaths	Pop.	Live Births	Deaths	Pop.	Live Births	Deaths	Pop.
URBAN.												
Bromyard ...	37	22	1524	32	28	1666	30	21	1772	28	20	1780
Hereford City (M.B.) ...	686	397	31870	604	339	32150	640	366	32280	546	395	32440
Kington ...	41	29	1990	40	21	1968	23	29	2008	21	22	1983
Ledbury ...	72	53	3408	54	42	3667	71	50	3663	63	53	3780
Leominster (M.B.) ...	129	90	6078	132	77	6170	131	80	6060	128	84	6140
Ross-on-Wye ...	121	75	4870	91	66	5180	108	80	5290	83	81	5280
Total Urban Districts ...	1086	666	49740	953	573	50801	1003	626	51073	869	655	51403
RURAL.												
Bromyard ...	170	110	7007	129	68	7408	136	91	7169	111	100	7167
Dore and Bredwardine ...	170	99	7658	170	89	8368	176	94	8589	155	80	8691
Hereford ...	266	149	13930	237	153	14400	239	176	14540	269	158	17490
Kington ...	99	70	4696	86	60	4752	80	76	4761	83	78	4830
Ledbury ...	159	108	8551	166	99	9013	180	102	8987	160	105	8700
Leominster and Wigmore	194	131	10210	214	128	10530	180	136	10440	172	132	10550
Ross and Whitchurch ...	232	185	11890	196	150	11780	208	154	11850	178	153	11830
Weobley ...	133	73	6388	159	72	6548	134	84	6491	126	84	6349
Total Rural Districts ...	1423	925	70330	1357	819	72799	1333	913	72827	1254	890	75607
Total County ...	2509	1591	120070	2310	1392	123600	2336	1539	123900	2123	1545	127010

Rateable Value, £627,867.

Product of 1d. Rate, £2,546.

### ENGLAND AND WALES.

	1947	1948	1949	1950
Live Births ...	886,799	777,648	731,568	692,457
Deaths ...	517,613	470,282	510,819	510,309

Population 43,830,000 approx. Reg.-Gen. estimates.

### CARE OF MOTHERS AND YOUNG CHILDREN.

The County Council is responsible for the administration of the Midwives' Acts, and the section of the National Health Service Act, 1946, relating to the Care of Mothers and Young Children. The area administered covers the whole County.

The following is a summary of statistics relating to Maternity and Child Welfare Services :

	1947	1948	1949	1950
Population ... ..	120,070	123,600	123,900	127,010
Live Births :				
Legitimate ... (M) ...	1,176	1,161	1,114	1,047
(F) ...	1,154	986	1,060	931
(T) ...	2,330	2,147	2,174	1,978
Illegitimate ... (M) ...	90	76	80	70
(F) ...	89	87	82	75
(T) ...	179	163	162	145
Total Live Births ... ..	2,509	2,310	2,336	2,123
Still Births :				
Legitimate ... (M) ...	33	34	31	22
(F) ...	38	18	16	27
(T) ...	71	52	47	49
Illegitimate ... (M) ...	2	1	4	1
(F) ...	5	1	1	1
(T) ...	7	2	5	2
Total Still Births ... ..	78	54	52	51
Number of Infant Deaths ... ..	97	101	64	67
Number of Maternal Deaths ... ..	5	3	1	3

	1947		1948		1949		1950	
	County	Eng. & Wales	County	Eng. & Wales	County	Eng. & Wales	County	Eng. & Wales
Live Birth Rate ... ..	20.9	20.5	18.7	17.9	18.8	16.7	16.7	15.8
Still Birth Rate ... ..	31.1	24.1	23.4	23	22.3	23	23.4	22.6
Illegitimacy Birth Rate ... ..	71.8	52	70.5	53	69.3	50	68.3	49
Infantile Mortality Rate ... ..	38.6	41	43.7	34	27.4	32	31.5	29.8
Maternal Mortality Rate ... ..	1.9	1.17	1.3	1.02	.4	.98	1.4	.86
Crude Death Rate ... ..	13.25	12.0	10.4	10.8	12.4	11.7	12.2	11.6

#### MIDWIVES.

At the end of 1950 the number of Midwives who had notified their intention to practise in the County was 108, and these were distributed as follows :—

1. Domiciliary	(a) District Nurse Midwives ... ..	47
	(b) Village Nurse Midwives ... ..	13
	(c) Independent ... ..	8

	(d)	Midwives living in adjacent Counties and taking occasional cases in Herefordshire	...	...	...	...	...	8
	(e)	Practised in an Emergency	...	...	...	...	...	—
								76
2.	Institutions	(f)	Hospitals	...	...	...	...	26
		(g)	Nursing Homes	...	...	...	...	6
								32
		Grand Total	...	...	...	...	...	108
Supervision of Midwives								
		Routine Visits	...	...	...	...	...	67
		Special Visits	...	...	...	...	...	45
		"Medical Aid" requests by Midwives	...	...	...	...	...	349
Notification from Midwives :								
		Stillbirths	...	...	...	...	...	13
		Last Offices	...	...	...	...	...	12
		Suspected liability to be a source of infection	...	...	...	...	...	14
		Artificial feeding of infants	...	...	...	...	...	129
		Deaths of infants	...	...	...	...	...	8
		Deaths of mothers	...	...	...	...	...	1
Temporary suspension of Midwives due to liability of being a source of infection								
			...	...	...	...	...	6

#### NOTIFICATION OF BIRTHS 1950.

				Live Births			Still Births			Confinements calculated from N.O.B.
				Single	Twin Babies	Total	Single	Twin Babies	Total	
At Home	...	...	...	883	19	902	12	1	13	905
Institutions :										
Kington	...	...	...	12	—	12	—	—	—	12
Leominster	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ross-on-Wye	...	...	...	32	—	32	—	—	—	32
				44	—	44	—	—	—	44
Maternity Nursing Homes	...			207	—	207	2	—	2	209
Hospitals	...	...	...	940	28	968	34	2	36	989
Grand Total	...	...	...	2074	47	2121	48	3	51	2147

## HOME HELP SERVICE.

During 1950 the following cases were dealt with :—

*(a)	Ill	...	...	...	...	...	...	110
(b)	Maternity	...	...	...	...	...	...	99
(c)	Mentally Defective	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
(d)	Aged	...	...	...	...	...	...	42
(e)	A child not over school age	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Total		...	...	...	...	...	...	257

\*including 18 Tuberculosis cases and 3 Blind Persons.

Each case has been supported by the Certificate of a doctor or nurse.

On the 31st December, 1950, enrolled Home Helps were :—

Full-time	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Regular Part-time	...	...	...	...	...	...	44
Emergency	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
Total		...	...	...	...	...	59

On the 1st May, 1950, the full standard charge was increased from 2/3d. per hour to 2/6d. per hour. Home Helps are paid 1/10d. per hour. Full-time and Regular Part-time Home Helps receive 6 days' leave with pay on completion of each period of 6 months' service.

## PROBLEM FAMILIES

The families now visited may be grouped as follows :—

Group A. Cases where possible child neglect may be arrested by timely help.

Group B. Mainly bad housing, but with other attendant problems.

During 1950, the Problem Family Welfare Officer has endeavoured to concentrate on those families whose home conditions had fallen to such a low standard that unless an immediate improvement could be made there was a possibility of further action being taken. Close liaison with the N.S.P.C.C. has shown that further deterioration can be stopped, and the task of bringing the family back to a normal standard begun.

Two families dealt with after proceedings had been taken against them have been assisted. The conditions have improved to an extent where children previously in the care of the local authority have been returned to the parents.

Four families have taken advantage of the Home Help Service—two maternity cases, and two cases of mothers with young children. These cases have been dealt with in accordance with the usual procedure. The Organiser was, however, first contacted by the Problem Family Welfare Officer. This has resulted in placing the right type of help in each case. All these families had reached a fair standard beforehand.

The Women's Voluntary Service has continued to give valuable assistance. Clothing has been supplied to 28 families. These have been cases where the wage earner has been either on the sick list or unemployed. The clothing has only been supplied for the children of the family.

The Problem Family needs intensive individual treatment if a real improvement is to be made and maintained. The year 1950 has shown clearly the need for preventive work of this nature with the younger mother. This will be the aim of the future.



### MATERNITY HOMES.

	<i>No. of Homes on Register 31/12/50</i>	<i>Maternity Beds as at 31/12/50</i>	<i>Births during 1950</i>
Hereford City ...	2	7	177
Ross Urban ...	1	2	32

### REPORT OF SENIOR DENTAL OFFICER ON DENTAL TREATMENT FOR EXPECTANT AND NURSING MOTHERS, AND CHILDREN UNDER FIVE YEARS.

During 1950 the weekly sessions devoted exclusively to treatment of this category of patient have continued to be held on Friday afternoons at Hereford City Clinic.

The demand for treatment at Leominster, Ross-on-Wye and Ledbury is still insufficient to warrant a full session per week. Patients from rural areas appear to prefer to have their treatment at Hereford City Clinic, possibly in many cases for domestic convenience.

The Clinic in the Old Drill Hall, Ross, has been considerably improved during the year. A fountain spittoon has been installed and the surgery is now completely equipped. In addition it has been decorated and curtains have been fitted to the windows. As a result of these improvements, it is hoped to extend the Maternity and Child Welfare dental service at Ross.

Since it was considered impracticable to modernise the premises at Ledbury, their use as a dental treatment centre has been discontinued.

During the latter half of the year, treatment of Maternity and Child Welfare patients in the Ledbury area has been performed in the mobile dental unit, for which purpose it has been located in the courtyard of The Deanery. This practice has proved to be very satisfactory, providing facilities of a high order for patient and operator alike.

The Leominster Hospital Hut still remains unsatisfactory despite improvements of a minor nature.

The number of expectant and nursing mothers and pre-school children attending for examination remains constant. There has been a slight increase in the number of dentures provided.

Twenty pre-school children received treatment under nitrous-oxide and oxygen anaesthesia during the year. Hitherto, this form of treatment has not been available.

The X-ray departments of the County Hospital and the General Hospital remain available for radiographic purposes when required.

It is very doubtful whether the demand for artificial dentures will ever justify the setting up of a County Dental Laboratory. The present arrangement, whereby denture work in the latter stages is sent to a private dental laboratory for processing, is satisfactory.

Statistical details of patients examined and treatment given during the year are shown in the tables below.

(a) Numbers provided with dental treatment :

	<i>Examined</i>	<i>Requiring Treatment</i>	<i>Treated</i>	<i>Made Dentally fit</i>
Expectant and Nursing Mothers	160	152	135	41
Children under 5 ... ..	83	64	46	30

(b) Forms of dental treatment provided :

	<i>Extrac- tions</i>	<i>Anaesthetics</i>		<i>Fillings</i>	<i>Scalings or Scaling and gum treat- ment</i>	<i>Silver nitrate treat- ment</i>	<i>Dress- ings</i>	<i>Radio- graphs</i>	<i>Dentures provided</i>	
		<i>Local</i>	<i>General</i>						<i>Com- plete</i>	<i>Partial</i>
Expectant and Nursing mothers	220	191	2	74	7	1	6	—	6	7
Children under five	75	25	20	4	—	6	9	1	—	—

### HEALTH VISITING.

There were at the end of the year 6 whole-time Health Visitors on the staff of the County Health Department, undertaking Maternity and Child Welfare, and School Health Service duties. The remainder of the County was covered by District Nurses doing generalised work.

From the fourteenth day until one year of age infants are visited at least once a month by the Health Visitor, then at three monthly intervals until the child attains the age of five years.

### OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.

Notifications	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	14
Cases admitted to Eye Hospitals	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Treated as Out-Patients at Victoria Eye Hospital	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
No. of cases in which permanent damage to eyes occurred	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—

### PUERPERAL PYREXIA.

Notifications	...	...	...	3
Treated in Hospital	...	...	...	—

### INFANT MORTALITY RATE.

<i>Year</i>	<i>COUNTY</i>			<i>England &amp; Wales— Rate per 1,000 live births</i>
	<i>Live Births</i>	<i>Deaths under 1</i>	<i>Rate per 1,000 live births</i>	
1941	1953	133	69	59
1942	2156	95	44	49
1943	2205	116	53	49
1944	2361	93	39.4	46
1945	2070	87	42	46
1946	2412	83	34.4	43
1947	2509	97	38.6	41
1948	2310	101	43.7	34
1949	2336	64	27.4	32
1950	2123	67	31.5	29.8

The causes of deaths of infants under 1 year of age is given by the Registrar General for 1948, 1949 and 1950, as follows :—

CAUSES OF DEATH.	No. of Deaths		
	1948	1949	1950
Whooping Cough ... ..	5	—	—
Syphilis ... ..	1	—	—
Measles ... ..	—	—	1
Tuberculosis ... ..	—	—	1
Bronchitis ... ..	3	4	1
Prematurity ... ..	19	23	18
Diarrhoea ... ..	7	1	—
Other digestive diseases ... ..	1	3	2
Pneumonia ... ..	15	10	13
Congenital malformations, birth injuries ...	45	18	17
Accidents ... ..	3	1	2
All other causes ... ..	2	4	12
TOTALS ...	101	64	67

#### ST. MARTIN'S DAY NURSERY, HEREFORD.

Number of approved places		No. of children on register at the end of the year		Average daily attendance during the year	
0—2	2—5	0—2	2—5	0—2	2—5
10	25	10	25	8	23

The St. Martin's Day Nursery was opened during the recent war, and is situated in a prefabricated hut. Efforts have been made to improve the amenities to bring it up to the standard for approval under the Nursery Nurses training scheme. The Nursery receives children of any age up to 5 years. In my opinion, children, at any rate under 3 years of age, should be looked after at home, wherever possible. Some, however, do require nursery accommodation, and priority is given as follows :—

- Mother is unable to look after the child owing to illness.
- Mother is unable to look after the child, e.g., mother unmarried.
- Mother goes out to work in essential industry.
- On medical grounds—the child requires to be with other children.

# THE CARE OF THE ILLEGITIMATE CHILD (CIRCULAR 2866).

January 1st—December 31st, 1950.

		No. of Cases		Year of Birth							Sent to					Grants from				Payments by				Work for		Other details					Foster- mothers	
CASES REFERRED BY		Total	Married	Single	1931	1930	1950	1949	1948	1947 or earlier	Maternity Training Home	Private Nursing Home	Social Welfare Home	Children's Home	The Haven	Foster Mother	Hereford County Council	M. Welfare Association	C.E.C.'s Society	Girls for Expenses	Affiliation Order	Private Agreement	Girls & Expectant Mothers	Mothers with Baby	Given Clothes	Married	Married P. Father	Child Adopted	Child Died	Obtained	Refused	
COUNTY HEALTH DEPT.	Med. Officer of Health	31	9	22	2	4	25	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	2	2	1	—	—	—	2	1	—	—	13	2	6	2	—	4	3
	County Nurs. Super.	2	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	
	Dist. Nurse/Health Vis.	8	2	6	—	1	5	1	—	—	2	—	—	1	—	1	2	—	—	—	—	3	1	—	6	1	1	—	—	—	1	
	County Hospital ...	8	—	8	—	7	7	1	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	2	1	—	1	1	1	3	—	1	6	4	3	2	1	—	—	
Private Med. Practitioners		6	2	4	3	—	5	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	1	1	1	1	—	—	1	—	—	1	—
Children's Officer...		7	6	1	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	2	
Police ...		2	—	2	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Clergy ...		3	1	2	—	1	2	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	3	3	—	—	—	1	—	—
London Societies		14	—	14	2	—	9	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	2	3	1	—	—	2	—	—	1	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—
Probation Officer		1	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Social Welfare Officer		1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Solicitor ...		1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Welfare Workers		9	3	6	4	—	3	—	—	—	2	—	1	1	2	2	1	—	—	—	—	2	1	—	—	—	3	2	1	1	—	—
Others ...		9	5	4	4	1	—	1	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	4	1	—	1	1	—	3	1	—	—	3	4	2	3	—	3	1
TOTAL ...		102	*30	72	15	†14	61	3	1	2	13	†2	2	2	5	14	8	1	3	6	3	17	7	2	2	31	19	16	12	2	13	8

\*Including Foster Mothers and Adopters. †Paid own fees. ‡Cases referred in 1949.  
 102 New Cases in 1950 including 21 Foster-Mother or Adoption Applications  
 200 Old Cases received after-care  
 1372 Visits were made  
 409 Interviews were given at Worker's Office.

L. M. OWEN,  
 County Welfare Worker.



## INFANT WELFARE CENTRES.

There are eighteen Infant Welfare Centres in the County, including Hereford City. Centres have been opened during the year at Belmont, Pembridge and Shobdon.

At the majority of these Centres there is a voluntary committee with several honorary officers who in many cases have carried out this work over a period of many years. They have been responsible for the day to day running of the Centre including the raising of money over and above that supplied by the County Council in the form of a small grant. An Assistant County Medical Officer attends regularly at each session and examines those children selected by the Nurse, and gives advice to the mothers.

The following table shows the attendances at the Centres in the County:—

Centre	No. of children who attended	No. attended for first time		No. in attendance at end of year		Total attendances	
		Under 1	Over 1	Under 1	Over 1	Under 1	Over 1
*BELMONT ... ..	239	86	46	69	81	1463	890
BROMYARD ... ..	100	31	16	26	24	317	139
COLWALL ... ..	49	22	1	17	10	335	101
DILWYN ... ..	25	8	5	2	14	33	57
FOXLEY ... ..	78	25	10	19	66	265	99
HEREFORD ... ..	794	316	43	277	487	4811	1435
KINGTON ... ..	102	36	18	25	41	343	143
LEDBURY ... ..	116	34	9	29	73	412	449
LEOMINSTER ... ..	190	91	3	56	39	1213	547
LONGTOWN ... ..	28	5	3	4	23	29	90
†LOWER SAPEY ... ..	17	2	2	3	14	40	103
OCLE PYCHARD ... ..	55	11	8	8	21	59	88
ORLETON ... ..	46	15	11	10	28	74	143
*PEMBRIDGE ... ..	30	13	17	11	17	16	24
PONTRILAS ... ..	21	15	—	8	11	71	33
ROSS ... ..	107	55	7	41	63	383	97
*SHOBDON ... ..	61	24	33	13	40	95	111
WEOBLEY ... ..	39	8	—	8	29	46	85
TOTAL ... ..	2097	797	240	626	1081	10005	4636

\*New Centres opened during the year 1951. †Weighing Centre only.

## TUBERCULOSIS.

### Incidence of the Disease.

Statistics for 1949 and 1950 suggest a slightly lower incidence of Tuberculosis locally than in previous years, but it would be unwise to conclude that any really satisfactory headway has yet been made towards the eradication of Tuberculosis.

It is gratifying that the tubercle-free milk campaign is proceeding, but cases of tuberculosis suspected to arise from a bovine source still occur, and under present administrative and marketing conditions it is sometimes extremely difficult to trace the infective animal.

B.C.G. vaccination, while useful in conferring a limited degree of immunity upon those who have not yet had a "natural" infection by the tubercle bacillus and thereby rendering them less prone to the most acute forms of the disease, cannot be expected to have much, if any, appreciable influence in preventing the occurrence of the less acute or more chronic types of Pulmonary Tuberculosis which make up the bulk of the cases and constitute the main reservoir of infection for the rest of the community. Voluntary B.C.G. vaccination of hospital nurses found by tuberculin testing to require it was started in the summer of 1950 and the response has been almost a hundred per cent. Vaccination will be applied to infant contacts when facilities permit.

The number of cases of all forms of tuberculosis under clinic supervision and not yet fully recovered has increased annually, as can be seen in detail from the tables. In addition, a further 600 odd persons are under observation either as contacts (the majority) or suspects. Endeavour is being made to acquire more adequate clinic facilities. The number of institutional beds remains the same as in the last annual report and adequate staffing is still difficult.

## **Mortality of the Disease.**

As elsewhere in the country this shows a decided decline, the 1950 deaths in Herefordshire being half the number for 1945. Improvements in treatment, notably by streptomycin, have largely contributed to this, but as the germs become in time "used to" streptomycin, some doubt remains whether this decline in mortality will be maintained. Taking the longer view, it would be much better to see the incidence figures showing the same degree of decline.

## **Prevention and Care Work.**

Supervision of contacts and B.G.C. vaccination have been mentioned above. As much as possible has been done to remove infant contacts from family sources of infection by using relatives, or boarding out, or by admission to the Open Air School.

Sputum disposal outfits with instructions have been supplied to infectious cases, along with booklets containing advice on prevention. Disinfection of infected bedrooms and shelters is a routine.

Prevention and Care work continue to be carried out regularly and conscientiously by the Health Visitor and the After-Care Welfare Officer, and close co-operation is maintained with the Disablement Resettlement Officer and housing authorities.

## **CARE AND AFTER-CARE.**

New patients, and those discharged from hospitals and sanatoria, have been seen as soon as possible by the After-Care Welfare Officer. Free milk was provided for 27 patients, of which 4 were new cases, during the year. Some 56 shelters have been in use during the year, and these have been inspected and kept in good repair, and single bedsteads and mattresses have been provided on loan through the Care Committee in a number of cases. Extra bedding, i.e., sheets, blankets and pillows were lent in 10 cases. Hot water bottles, air rings, and rubber sheeting have been issued, and the Women's Voluntary Service and National Assistance Board have again helped with additional clothing in many cases. The Care Committee have provided pyjamas for two cases, clothing for four child contacts boarded-out, and for two patients proceeding for rehabilitation courses.

The charges for the Home Help Service for tuberculous cases have been reduced by 50%. This has been a great help, as the services of a Home Help are usually required over a much longer period for tuberculosis patients than ordinary cases.

Materials have been provided at cost price for needlework, rug-making and knitting, to patients not in hospital or sanatorium. The British Red Cross Society has continued to help in ex-service cases.

In addition to the 3 men already at Re-habilitation Centres, 2 were admitted to Papworth Village Settlement this year, and other patients have been helped by the local Disablement Resettlement Officer of the Ministry of Labour.

Some 7 children were boarded-out through the Children's Department.

## **Convalescence.**

32 adults and 24 children were sent to homes for varying periods of convalescence :

12 adults	to Rest Haven, Exmouth
7 "	" Clevedon
11 "	" Porthcawl
1 adult	" Bournemouth
1 "	" Weston-super-Mare
10 children	" Lynton, Devon
3 "	" Rest Haven, Exmouth
7 "	" Hove
1 child	" Weston-super-Mare
3 children	" Seafeld, Clevedon

Escorts were provided for 19 of the children—mainly through the British Red Cross Society and Women's Voluntary Service, and the Women's Voluntary Service and National Assistance Board helped with additional clothing in 6 cases.

# TUBERCULOSIS.

## PRIMARY NOTIFICATIONS.

	1945				1946				1947				1948				1949				1950			
	M	F	C	T	M	F	C	T	M	F	C	T	M	F	C	T	M	F	C	T	M	F	C	T
Pulmonary ...	46	47	26	119	65	52	12	129	57	57	17	131	76	47	7	130	55	34	10	99	55	38	17	110
Non-Pulmonary ...	7	14	23	44	6	18	16	40	9	12	20	41	10	13	7	30	7	6	19	32	6	10	17	33
Totals ...	163				169				172				160				131				143			

## NO. OF DEFINITE CASES ON CLINIC REGISTER.

	1945				1946				1947				1948				1949				1950			
	M	F	C	T	M	F	C	T	M	F	C	T	M	F	C	T	M	F	C	T	M	F	C	T
Pulmonary ...	229	195	36	460	255	193	43	491	269	219	59	547	305	239	65	609	318	240	73	631	318	263	85	666
Non-Pulmonary ...	44	84	65	193	54	94	61	209	56	89	74	219	55	86	69	210	55	80	72	207	48	77	82	207
Totals ...	653				700				766				819				838				873			

## DEATHS.

	1945				1946				1947				1948				1949				1950			
	M	F	C	T	M	F	C	T	M	F	C	T	M	F	C	T	M	F	C	T	M	F	C	T
Pulmonary ...	44	18	1	63	33	30	2	65	33	20	—	53	23	20	1	44	28	29	—	57	26	11	1	38
Non-Pulmonary ...	7	2	12	21	2	7	8	17	3	3	3	9	3	4	2	9	1	2	2	5	1	1	2	4
Totals ...	84				82				62				53				62				42			

## TUBERCULOSIS MORTALITY. DEATH RATE PER 1,000 POPULATION

	RESPIRATORY		NON-RESPIRATORY		TOTAL	
	County	Eng. & Wales	County	Eng. & Wales	County	Eng. & Wales
1945 ...	.540	.520	.180	.100	.720	.620
1946 ...	.541	.46	.141	.08	.682	.54
1947 ...	.388	.475	.041	.08	.429	.555
1948 ...	.357	.44	.063	.07	.420	.51
1949 ...	.451	.399	.049	.054	.500	.46
1950 ...	.296	.36	.031	.046	.328	.36



# INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

County District	Scarlet Fever	Whooping Cough	Acute Poliomyelitis		Measles (Excl. Rubella)	Diphtheria	Acute Pneumonia	Dysentery	Smallpox	Acute Encephalitis		Enteric or Typhoid Fever	Para-Typhoid Fevers	Erysipelas	Menigeococcal Infection	Food Poisoning	Puerperal Pyrexia	Ophthalmia Neonatorum
			Paralytic	Non-Paralytic						Infective	Post-Infectious							
Bromyard U.D. ...	4	—	—	—	63	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Hereford M.B. ...	49	69	4	2	689	—	10	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—
Kington U.D. ...	—	—	—	—	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ledbury U.D. ...	2	1	—	—	2	—	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Leominster M.B. ...	12	73	2	2	6	—	9	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ross-on-Wye U.D. ...	14	24	—	—	20	—	2	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	—	—
Bromyard R.D. ...	20	11	—	2	125	—	2	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—
Dore & Bred. R.D. ...	8	10	1	—	168	—	9	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Hereford R.D. ...	69	33	3	3	221	—	11	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	4
Kington R.D. ...	—	4	1	—	25	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ledbury R.D. ...	3	1	2	4	43	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Leom. & Wig. R.D. ...	4	65	2	—	12	—	14	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—
Ross & Whit. R.D. ...	8	66	4	2	68	—	14	2	—	—	—	2	1	1	—	2	—	—
Weobley R.D. ...	5	33	2	—	80	—	6	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	—	4	—	1

# CANCER.

DISTRICT (and Estimated Population)		No. of Deaths	SITE OF MALIG. NEOPLASM				Other Malig. & Lymphatic Neoplasms
			Stomach	Lung, Bronchus	Breast	Uterus	
Bromyard Urban ...	1780	5	2	1	1	—	1
Hereford M.B. ...	32440	56	8	8	3	4	33
Kington Urban ...	1983	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ledbury Urban ...	3780	9	3	—	1	—	5
Leominster M.B. ...	6140	21	3	3	2	2	11
Ross-on-Wye Urban ...	5280	11	4	—	—	—	7
Bromyard Rural ...	7167	18	1	3	4	—	10
Dore and Bredwardine Rural ...	8691	12	3	1	2	1	5
Hereford Rural ...	17490	19	1	2	2	2	12
Kington Rural ...	4830	11	3	2	—	—	6
Ledbury Rural ...	8700	13	1	1	—	—	11
Leominster and Wigmore R. ...	10550	20	4	1	3	2	10
Ross & Whitchurch Rural ...	11830	27	8	3	1	2	13
Weobley Rural ...	6349	12	4	—	—	1	7
All Districts ...	127010	234	45	25	19	14	131



## DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION AND VACCINATION.

The County Council, as Local Health Authority is responsible for the organisation of a scheme in connection with Diphtheria Immunisation and Vaccination for the whole County, including the City of Hereford, under Section 26 of the National Health Service Act, 1946.

### Diphtheria Immunisation.

During 1950, a total of 1,691 children under 15 years of age in the County were given a full course of immunisation, and 1,640 children were given a single reinforcing injection. Immunisation was carried out as follows :

	<i>Children aged</i>		<i>Total</i>	<i>Reinforcing Injections</i>
	<i>0—4</i>	<i>5—14</i>		
At Hereford City Clinic and Minor Ailments Clinics ... ..	161	16	177	18
At Infant Welfare Centres ... ..	264	5	269	2
At School Medical Inspections ... ..	94	399	493	1,568
By General Practitioners ... ..	727	25	752	52
Total immunisations, 1950 ... ..	1,246	445	1,691	1,640
Comparative figures, 1949 ... ..	1,741	703	2,444	2,019

It will be noted that the figures are lower than those returned for the year 1949. This was due to the reluctance of parents to accept treatment during the prevalence of poliomyelitis in the country in the latter half of the year.

All Health Visitors and District Nurses in the area have co-operated by informing parents of the advisability of securing protection against diphtheria for their infants as early in life as possible, and use has been made of publicity material provided by the Central Office of Information and the Central Council for Health Education.

The policy of offering treatment at the time of the school medical inspections, on the child's admission to school at 5 years of age, and again on reaching the age of 9 years, has continued with success. During the period under review, immunisation was offered in respect of children of these age groups at 168 maintained schools and 1 private school ; 2,812 notices were forwarded to parents resulting in the primary immunisation of 493 children and the administration of 1,568 reinforcing injections, an acceptance rate of 73.3%.

As shown in the appended table, the total number of children under 15 years of age deemed to be immunised at 31st December, 1950, is 20,452 of an estimated child population of 29,250, a percentage of 69.9. This figure compares favourably with the position at 31st December, 1949, when 19,886 children of an estimated population of 28,910 were protected, a percentage of 68.8.

The effectiveness of the scheme is shown by the fact that during 1950 no cases of diphtheria were notified as occurring in the County, as compared with 1 case in 1949.

There were no deaths from diphtheria occurring in the area of the Local Health Authority during 1950.

### Vaccination against Smallpox.

All parents in the area are informed of the importance of ensuring that their infants are vaccinated in early life, by means of a personal letter from the County Medical Officer embodying a consent form, which is taken to the mother by the Health Visitor for the area at the time of the first visit after notification of the birth of a child. The Health Visitor informs the parents of the facilities for vaccination, either by taking the infant to the private medical practitioner, or by attendance at the Vaccination Clinic held weekly in Hereford. If any infant has not been vaccinated by the sixth month, then the Health Visitor forwards a report to the County Health Department stating the reasons for refusal, but this service is no longer compulsory.

The following table shows the number of persons vaccinated (or re-vaccinated) during the past 2 years, based on records received :—

<i>Age at date of vaccination</i>		<i>Under 1</i>	<i>1 to 4</i>	<i>5 to 14</i>	<i>15 or over</i>	<i>Total</i>
Number Vaccinated 1950 ...		730	68	34	44	876
„ „ 1949 ...		754	32	29	27	842
Number Re-vaccinated 1950 ...		—	5	26	190	221
„ „ 1949 ...		—	1	11	129	141

No cases were specially reported during the period of (a) Generalised Vaccinia, and (b) Post-vaccinal Encephalomyelitis, and no deaths from complications of vaccination.

### DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

This return was made by the County Medical Officer of Health after ascertaining the corrected notifications for the calendar year and the number of death registrations transferred to and from the Authority's area by the General Register Office.

#### Immunisation in Relation to Child Population.

Number of children at 31st December, 1950, who had completed a course of Immunisation at any time before that date (i.e., at any time since 1st January, 1936).

AGE AT 31/12/50 <i>i.e., Born in Year</i>	<i>Under 1</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>5—9</i>	<i>10—14</i>	<i>Total under 15</i>	<i>Estimated mid-year child population 1950</i>		
	1950	1949	1948	1947	1946	1941-45	1936-40		<i>Under 5</i>	<i>5-14</i>	<i>Total</i>
COUNTY DISTRICT.											
Bromyard U.D. ...	—	16	22	39	24	134	155	390	172	296	468
Hereford M.B. ...	14	263	378	410	439	2141	2035	5680	2786	4562	7348
Kington U.D. ...	—	9	33	36	27	128	154	387	169	291	460
Ledbury U.D. ...	—	37	44	47	59	235	240	662	322	532	854
Leominster M.B. ...	1	49	66	86	79	352	264	897	555	913	1468
Ross-on-Wye U.D. ...	1	34	53	60	42	294	280	764	458	806	1264
Bromyard R.D. ...	—	37	76	88	85	501	436	1223	646	1130	1776
Dore & Bredwardine R.D. ...	—	65	110	120	116	587	436	1434	868	1400	2268
Hereford R.D. ...	3	94	131	134	111	834	775	2082	1233	2019	3252
Kington R.D. ...	2	38	63	61	56	316	301	837	387	736	1123
Ledbury R.D. ...	1	58	72	87	68	599	574	1459	716	1474	2190
Leom. & Wigmore R.D. ...	—	53	95	106	123	598	601	1576	934	1554	2488
Ross & Whit. R.D. ...	—	59	110	113	106	815	851	2054	1033	1775	2808
Weobley R.D. ...	—	51	80	84	78	338	376	1007	611	872	1483
Total—Area of L.H.A. ...	22	863	1333	1471	1413	7872	7478	20452	10890	18360	29250

## CAUSES OF DEATH AT DIFFERENT PERIODS OF LIFE IN THE ADMINISTRATIVE COUNTY OF HEREFORD. 1950.

CAUSES OF DEATH		AGGREGATE OF URBAN DISTRICTS								AGGREGATE OF RURAL DISTRICTS								Total Urban (all ages)	Total Rural (all ages)	Total County (all ages)
		0	1	5	15	25	45	65	75	0	1	5	15	25	45	65	75			
1	Tuberculosis, resp. ...	1	—	—	1	3	7	1	2	—	—	—	2	5	5	3	3	15	18	33
2	Tuberculosis, other ...	—	1	1	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	4	1	5
3	Syphilitic dis. ...	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	2	1	3
4	Diphtheria ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5	Whooping Cough ...	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	2
6	Meningococcal infections ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	2
7	Ac. polio-myel. ...	—	—	1	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	5	1	—	—	4	7	11
8	Measles ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	3
9	Other inf. and parasitic dis. ...	—	1	—	—	3	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	1	1	—	5	3	8
10	Malig. neoplasm, stomach ...	—	—	—	—	1	9	3	7	—	—	—	—	1	7	9	8	20	25	45
11	Malig. neoplasm, lung bronchus ...	—	—	—	—	—	4	7	1	—	—	—	—	2	7	4	—	12	13	25
12	Malig. neoplasm, breast ...	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	3	—	—	—	—	1	5	6	—	7	12	19
13	Malig. neoplasm uterus ...	—	—	—	—	—	3	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	3	1	4	6	8	14
14	Other malig. and lymphatic neoplasms ...	—	—	—	—	5	18	20	14	—	—	1	1	3	20	21	28	57	74	131
15	Leukaemia, leukaemia ...	—	—	1	2	—	1	1	—	—	2	—	—	—	3	—	—	5	5	10
16	Diabetes ...	—	—	—	—	1	4	3	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	—	3	8	6	14
17	Vasc. lesions of nervous system ...	—	—	—	—	3	17	26	55	—	—	—	—	1	19	40	62	101	122	223
18	Coronary dis., angina ...	—	—	—	—	1	16	11	17	—	—	—	—	—	12	26	30	45	68	113
19	Hypertension, with heart dis. ...	—	—	—	—	1	2	7	6	—	—	—	—	1	2	9	11	16	23	39
20	Other heart dis. ...	—	—	—	1	1	19	22	69	—	—	—	—	—	20	45	151	112	216	328
21	Other circ. dis. ...	—	—	—	—	1	8	4	12	—	—	—	—	—	4	4	14	25	22	47
22	Influenza ...	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	8	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	3	10	6	16
23	Pneumonia ...	3	—	1	—	—	2	8	15	1	—	—	—	1	5	10	9	29	26	55
24	Bronchitis ...	2	1	—	—	—	5	9	13	—	—	—	—	1	4	5	24	30	34	64
25	Other dis. of resp. system ...	—	—	—	—	1	2	2	1	1	—	—	—	—	2	4	1	6	8	14
26	Ulcer of stomach and duc- denum ...	—	—	—	—	—	3	3	1	—	—	—	—	1	1	3	4	7	9	16
27	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea ...	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	4	—	—	—	1	—	—	2	5	7	12
28	Nephritis and nephrosis ...	—	—	—	—	4	4	3	6	1	—	—	—	5	1	5	10	17	22	39
29	Hyperplasia of prostate ...	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	8	9	11	20
30	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	3	3
31	Con. Mal. ...	7	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	7	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	8	8	16
32	Other defined and ill-defined dis. ...	9	2	1	1	3	11	14	20	25	2	—	2	3	17	15	34	61	98	159
33	Motor veh. accidents ...	—	2	—	—	5	1	1	—	—	—	—	2	1	—	4	2	9	9	18
34	All other accidents ...	2	—	—	—	—	6	2	5	—	2	1	—	—	5	2	8	15	18	33
35	Suicide ...	—	—	—	—	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	3	1	4
36	Homicide and ops. of war ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
37	All causes ...	26	9	5	6	39	149	154	267	41	8	5	9	38	148	222	419	655	890	1545



## MENTAL HEALTH

### Administration.

The Mental Health Sub-Committee, consisting of members of the Local Health Authority, representatives of the Education Committee and co-opted members of organisations interested in the mental health service, continue to discharge their various duties.

Meetings of the Sub-Committee are held quarterly.

The medical staff of the County Health Department and the County Area Medical Officers are authorised to act on behalf of the local health authority in the performance of duties under the Mental Deficiency Acts, and, in cases of difficulty under the Lunacy and Mental Treatment Acts, the services of a psychiatrist are available through the Regional Hospital Board.

The duties of the Duly Authorised Officer are carried out by one whole-time officer, with the Mental Deficiency Organiser and two designated officers performing stand-by duties.

Supervision of mental defectives in their own homes and on licence from institutions is undertaken by the Mental Deficiency Organiser and a Mental Deficiency Welfare Officer.

### Work undertaken in the Community.

#### (a) *After-care (Sec. 28 N. H. Service Act, 1946)*

Throughout the period under review cases have been notified by both the Regional Hospital Board and Ministry of Pensions as requiring after-care. On investigation they were found to be needing more social after-care than medical after-care treatment and regular contact was maintained for the purpose of giving any helpful advice. Similar visits have been made to persons previously notified, the results being encouraging.

#### (b) *Lunacy and Mental Treatment.*

Particulars are appended respecting patients admitted to the Mental Hospitals during the year, following action taken by the Duly Authorised Officers, and as a point of interest an analysis has been made of the ages and distribution of the persons concerned, as follows :—

Age Group	Males						Females					
	Vol.	Temp.	Certfd.	3 day Orders	14 day Orders	Total	Vol.	Temp.	Certfd.	3 day Orders	14 day Orders	Total
10—20 ...	1	—	—	—	2	3	2	—	—	—	—	2
21—30 ...	—	—	2	—	1	3	3	—	—	—	—	4
31—40 ...	2	—	4	4	1	11	2	—	3	3	2	10
41—50 ...	2	—	4	1	3	10	2	1	7	4	—	14
51—60 ...	1	—	2	2	1	6	1	2	9	3	—	15
61—65 ...	1	—	1	1	—	3	—	—	2	—	—	2
66—70 ...	1	—	3	—	—	4	1	2	1	—	—	4
71—75 ...	—	—	2	—	—	2	1	—	4	—	1	6
76—80 ...	—	1	4	1	—	6	1	—	5	—	—	6
81—85 ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	2	—	—	4
86—90 ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	2
	8	1	22	9	8	48	15	5	36	10	3	69

It will be noted that 32 Certified, Temporary and Voluntary patients over the age of 65 years were admitted during 1950—an increase over the previous year. Of these patients, 7 died before the end of the year and 9 were discharged. Practically all these patients were suffering from senile dementia, and owing to lack of suitable accommodation elsewhere it was necessary to admit them to the mental hospital for their proper care and control.

Of the 30 patients dealt with under 3 day and 14 day orders, 16 recovered ; 12 taking their departure from hospital and 4 electing to remain for extended voluntary treatment. The remaining 14 patients were certified ; 5 of them subsequently recovering and taking their discharge from hospital during the year.



A number of cases notified and investigated were considered at the time not to justify procedure under the Lunacy and Mental Treatment Acts. It was however possible in several instances to adopt some other means of providing for them, either by way of admission to Part III accommodation, to General Hospitals, through the Home Help service, or into the care of willing relatives.

*Protection of patient's property* (Sec. I Lunacy Act, 1908 and Sec. 48 Nat. Assistance Act, 1948).

The Duly Authorised Officer was called upon to obtain and report particulars of the property of 3 patients admitted to the mental hospital during the period under review.

(c) *Under the Mental Deficiency Acts, 1913-38.*

*Ascertainment.*

33 cases were ascertained during 1950, and at the end of the year 20 defectives were awaiting vacancies in Institutions.

*Supervision.*

The number of cases under supervision by the Mental Deficiency Organiser and the Mental Deficiency Welfare Officer on 31st December, 1950, was as follows :—

					<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
Statutory Supervision	...	...	...	...	128	99	227
Voluntary Supervision	...	...	...	...	1	3	4
Licence	...	...	...	...	1	3	4
Guardianship	...	...	...	...	—	1	1
Out-County Cases	...	...	...	...	1	2	3
					131	108	239

*Training.*

During the period under review, half-day weekly classes have been established at Bromyard, Kington, Ledbury, Leominster and Ross-on-Wye, for mentally defective children and young persons, and the pupils appear to be deriving much benefit from the social and instructional activities provided. At the end of the year 24 defectives were attending these classes, and 16 were receiving instruction in their own homes.

*Certification.*

Cases certified during the year were as follows :

*Admitted to :*

						<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>
Alton Street Hospital, Ross-on-Wye	...	...	...	...	...	4	1
Lea Colony, Bromsgrove	...	...	...	...	...	1	4
<i>Cases placed in Homes by parents :</i>							
Ellen Terry Home for Blind mentally defective children,							
Reigate	...	...	...	...	...	1	
The Manor, Bosavern, St. Just, Cornwall	...	...	...	...	...	1	

## AMBULANCE SERVICE.

This service is organised under an agency agreement by a Joint Ambulance Committee consisting of members of St. John Ambulance Brigade, British Red Cross Society, and representatives of the Health Committee of the County Council, and under the general supervision of the County Medical Officer.

The Headquarters are situated at the Hereford Ambulance Station, where four ambulances and two 'Utilicons' are stationed, and a twenty-four hour service is maintained. Headquarters staff consists of the Ambulance Officer and one Clerk (full-time), 6 male drivers (full-time), and a rota of voluntary attendants and telephonists from the British Red Cross Society.

The Sub-stations are mainly manned by volunteers.

One new ambulance and one new ' Utilicon ' have been purchased during the year, and a further ambulance and ' Utilicon ' are on order for replacement of worn out vehicles.

The annual mileage covered now appears to be running on a fairly steady basis of between 13,000 and 14,000 per month—the Headquarters Station at Hereford taking the large majority of the calls.

A new site for Headquarters has been acquired, as the present premises have to be vacated in 1952. Plans for new buildings to be erected are being prepared.

The annual inspection of outlying stations has been made, and various recommendations suggested.

Credit should be given to the members of the voluntary services who have devoted much of their spare time acting as drivers and attendants. Of the eight stations, five are entirely manned by voluntary and retained staff.

#### *Section 24, National Health Service Amendment Act.*

Arrangements have been made with neighbouring Authorities to give them the opportunity of transporting the discharge cases for which they are financially responsible and vice versa.

During the year ended 31st December, 1950, the mileage covered by the main Hereford Station and Sub-stations was as follows :—

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total
Hereford ...	8169	8230	9014	7809	8718	7145	7406	6327	7938	8933	7301	7056	94046
Ross-on-Wye ...	1855	1737	1975	1297	2128	1133	1034	1632	1299	896	987	1207	17180
Leominster ...	1146	725	1352	1307	1343	1138	1285	1064	839	1352	1309	1220	14080
Ledbury ...	283	507	787	636	483	528	537	666	1082	641	429	501	7080
Kington ...	319	255	426	444	396	419	150	110	179	87	313	356	3454
Bromyard ...	709	1204	881	1140	903	1184	670	811	1572	998	916	833	11821
Leintwardine ...	346	332	343	257	174	311	410	324	130	135	392	337	3491
*Pontrilas ...	27	27	32	38	—	25	26	—	—	—	131	498	804
	12854	13017	14810	12928	14145	11883	11518	10934	13039	13042	11778	12008	151956

\*Pontrilas ambulance was for a portion of the year, on relief at other stations.

#### **Analysis of Journeys**

Removals	...	...	6,539
Maternity	...	...	530
Accident	...	...	328
Infectious Diseases	...	...	191
Mental	...	...	87
			<hr/>
			7,675
			<hr/>
No. of patients carried	...		8,173

Increased use is being made of transport mainly by rail for long distance cases, and full co-operation is being given by all railway services. During the year 56 patients were removed by this method.

### HOSPITAL CAR SERVICE.

The organisation of this service is also by voluntary agency under a Committee consisting of members of St. John Ambulance Brigade, British Red Cross Society and the Women's Voluntary Service, and is run in conjunction with the Ambulance Service under the supervision of the County Medical Officer.

A rota of private car owners undertake the transport, and the ' Utilicon ' is used when several cases need conveyance to hospital at the same time. The mileage covered is still increasing, and, as shown hereunder, amounted to 108,578 during the year, and the number of patients carried was 4,560.

January	...	...	7,916
February	...	...	7,241
March	...	...	8,390
April	...	...	6,677
May	...	...	11,433
June	...	...	12,004
July	...	...	10,584
August	...	...	7,834
September	...	...	8,734
October	...	...	8,091
November	...	...	11,965
December	...	...	7,709
<hr/>			
Total	...	...	108,578
<hr/>			

## INDEX

	<i>Page.</i>
AMBULANCE SERVICE ... ..	18
BIRTHS, NOTIFICATION OF ... ..	5
CANCER ... ..	14
CARE OF MOTHERS AND YOUNG CHILDREN ... ..	3
CARE OF THE ILLEGITIMATE CHILD ... ..	10
CARE AND AFTER CARE ... ..	12
CHILD WELFARE ... ..	6
DAY NURSERY ... ..	9
DEATH, CAUSES OF ... ..	16
DENTAL TREATMENT—EXPECTANT AND NURSING MOTHERS ... ..	7
DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION AND VACCINATION ... ..	15
HEALTH VISITING ... ..	8
HOME HELPS ... ..	6
HOSPITAL CAR SERVICE ... ..	20
INFANT WELFARE CENTRES ... ..	11
INFANT MORTALITY RATE ... ..	8
INFECTIOUS DISEASE ... ..	14
MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE ... ..	4
MATERNITY HOMES ... ..	7
MENTAL HEALTH ... ..	17
MIDWIVES ... ..	4
OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM ... ..	8
PROBLEM FAMILIES ... ..	6
PUERPERAL PYREXIA ... ..	8
STAFF ... ..	2
STATISTICS—GENERAL ... ..	3
TUBERCULOSIS ... ..	11
TUBERCULOSIS—STATISTICS ... ..	13





